

PAIR for this case, and it is respectfully requested that the change of attorney and the change in correspondence address be entered into the file.

Provisional election of species:

Subject to the traversal that is discussed below, the Application provisionally elects the claims of Species 1 (claims 1 – 12) for initial prosecution on the merits.

Traverse of the election requirement:

With respect, the Applicant traverses the present election requirement on the grounds that search and examination of the claims of both Species I and II would not be an undue burden for the Examiner. The reason is that all claims appear to be classified in the same class and subclass, and cover the same or similar technical subject area. A comprehensive search of the claims of one species will necessarily include the art that is pertinent for the claims of the other species, and an additional search would, therefore, not be necessary.

It is respectfully requested that the requirement for the election of species be reconsidered and be withdrawn.

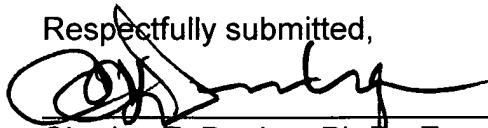
In the alternative, the Applicant respectfully requests that the claims to the non-elected species be rejoined with all claims that are found to be allowable as a result of the search and examination of the elected claims and that the non-elected claims then proceed to examination.

Request for reconsideration:

It is respectfully requested that the claims be examined in view of the reasons discussed above and found to be allowable. If it would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Date: January 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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